

## INFORMATION REPORT

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COUNTRY Yugoslavia

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SUBJECT Preparations for 1950 Elections in  
Yugoslavia

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1. During the latter part of December 1949, the Yugoslav Government carried out a revision of the voting lists to be used in the general elections which will take place in April 1950.\* The voting rosters used in previous elections have been examined, the political reliability of each prospective voter scrutinized and a new voting roster prepared.
2. The 1950 elections will be conducted by the regime along much the same lines as were those of 1945, at which time various political parties were represented. Preparations have been accelerated, and an attempt is being made to recreate the atmosphere of the "democratic" elections of 1945 for the sole benefit of the Western Powers. Party leaders recall that Western observers present at these elections considered them democratic and fair.
3. Mitja Ribicic, second in command of the UDB of Ljubljana, recently asserted that hundreds of thousands of people in Slovenia have been promised the right to vote in the forthcoming elections. Actually, however, a far lesser number will receive official sanction. He revealed that the Party apparatus is in gear, and it is certain that the maximal number of votes will go to Party-sponsored candidates, since activists have been ordered to cast more than one vote and report as directed on election returns, as they have done in the past.
4. Great efforts are being exerted by the regime to find suitable opponents among members of former opposition parties in Yugoslavia and abroad, in order to present a democratic facade and give the elections an air of legitimacy. Party leaders have concentrated on inducing the favor and cooperation of Macek's followers who are very popular not only in Croatia but in Slovenia. They would constitute a numerous and relatively harmless opposition element.
5. In Ljubljana, the regime has absolved many former opposition leaders, including Engineer Kosutic and Ivan Subasic, of all "sins against the State", but without attaining any real success thus far in gaining their cooperation for the elections. The regime has also paid particular attention to Dr. Branko Vrcon, who soon will be granted amnesty, Dr. Gosar and a few others who had been sentenced to forced labor several

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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

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years ago. In Serbia, regime representatives are active among former members of the Democratic and Radical Parties.

6. Moshe Pijade is planning to change the role of the Liberation Front in Yugoslavia to have it revert to the status it originally held in the early days of the regime. Political circles in Slovenia interpret this contemplated reorganization as an indication that there will be at least a token revival of opposition political parties in Yugoslavia. These would include the Peasant Party in Croatia; the Yugoslav Moslem Party in Bosnia; the Democratic and Radical Parties in Serbia, and in Slovenia; the former Democratic Party and Clerical Peoples' Party, the latter under the leadership of Dr. Metod Mikus, a pro-Tito Catholic priest. These opposition parties will be composed of the following:
  - a. Former members who became Communists in the 1941-1944 period and who are still trusted Tito followers.
  - b. A very few former minor opposition leaders who will be induced into becoming "active members of Tito's loyal opposition".
  - c. The usual number of unwary persons lured into any political party.
7. In order to insure that no real opposition to regime candidates develops, a nucleus of trusted observers, strategically placed within opposition parties, will control the degree of "opposition" that will be tolerated by Party leaders.

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[REDACTED] Comment: According to press reports elections scheduled for March 26.

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